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news briefs

DAY CARE SEEKS FUNDS

The Hill-Dwight Neighborhood Day Care Center, with 30 children enrolled at present, announced in mid-July that they would be forced to close August 1 due to lack of funds. If the Center should close, nearly 30 mothers would have to quit their jobs to care for their children—none of them could afford baby-sitters or find any other community day care facility: there is no other day care for this area.

For several months closure has threatened, but each time some temporary help has kept the Center open. In this latest crisis period, the conditions of operation have dropped to just barely adequate—a skeleton staff, mostly volunteer. Illness of one of the teachers means less than minimum staff.

Early this year a more permanent financial solution seemed likely—a Federal anti-poverty grant through CPI. In seeking these funds the Hill Day Care Center (as it was then constituted) *depended on CPI* for assistance in interpreting the bureaucratic jumble of "Federal guidelines" and procedures plus honest information about how much money they could expect and when. They got neither. As the parents and staff see it, CPI called in five groups, announced that if they presented proposals for community day care, they could each be eligible for $30,000 for one year's operation.

The two groups that complied with CPI'S schedule—one of which is *still* a paper organization—split the $150,000 allocation. With CPI out of funds for day care, the reorganized Hill-Dwight Center was left with no apparent source of income at a time when they planned to expand to 45, taking more children on a non-fee basis whose parents cannot afford day care.

The goal at present is to obtain support to keep the Hill-Dwight Day Care Center open until November when more anti-poverty money will be allocated in the State for day care. Of course, there is no guarantee that *this* day care facility will receive funds; moreover, they will receive no official commitment until at least October. Until then they simply are told to wait. But this is what they did last time, thus the parents and staff with some community support are now beginning to pressure CPI and state agencies.

At this point the parents of the children in the Center are seeing how much more might be achieved by their getting together and raising money for themselves rather than simply dealing with CPI and other agencies through the Center's Board of Directors. In a recent meeting with CPI and a State anti-poverty official, the parents were forcing answers that their adminsitrators would not force—answers they needed long ago. The number of parents involved still is not sufficient and the answers fall short of assuring this day care center operating funds.

JETPORT PROTESTORS COORDINATE

A significant and growing number of Connecticut citizens are becoming aware of "the alliance between government and corporate power which is impoverishing this state".

The catalyst that set these people (mostly middle-class, property-owning) in motion was the growth and threatened proliferation of airports all over Connecticut.

Local organizations have been variously active for several years opposing enlargement of

Bridgeport Airport, Stratford — Committee of Correspondence

Tweed-New Haven Airport, East Haven — Committee Against Airport Expansion

Trumbull Airport, Groton — Regional Organization for Airways Restudy (ROAR)

Bradley Field, Hartford area.

Another active group, Connecticut Organization for Planned Progress, sprang up in the sparcely-populated vicinity of Norwich which State Sen. Stanley says is the ideal location for a "regional jetport" with three-mile runways bulldozed out of the middle of Patchogue State Forest.

Representatives of these and several other local groups have been co-ordinating their efforts in recent months. They have organized at least two state-wide delegations of concerned citizens to Hartford. One of these appears to have influenced Governor Dempsey to veto 616, the worst of several "airport bills". This July 7 delegation of between 35 and 50 persons included at least one State Representative Provenzano, Stratford) and one First Selectman (Messina, East Haven).

The "prime mover" so far has been Peter Tripp of Stonington, a retired merchant mariner. He undertook the formidable task of watching the recent session of the General Assembly for bills threatening wanton waste of Connecticut's resources, of lobbying against them, and of publishing his observations in **Capitol Spotlight (Don't Tread on me).**

In Old Lyme July 22 a temporary panel of officers was elected headed by Raymond Ives of Phoenixville. Peter Tripp is to be in charge of publicity and publication. Actionwas initiated to incorporate the organization under the name "Connecticut Committees of Correspondence".

If you want more information or to join ($3 per year) address CCofD, P.O. Box 150, Sonington; Conn. 06378. Or call Sam 469-1231.

'BOTTOM' MAKES THE SCENE

On July 11, New Haven hatched a new underground paper, **The View from the Bottom** (25c) a colorful addition to the media of the radical community.

The Bottom views the cultural scene in general, including music, art, poetry, entertainment, grass and politics. It is tabloid size and generous in graphics, but genuinely concerned and practical. Besides its calendar of cultural events and reviews of records, concerts, plays and books, it keeps its audience up to date with the movements of our fledgling police state and suggests tactics for resistence.

The Bottom is a promising venture, but to be avant gard, even a bi-weekly should not have to lean on reprints. Buy it and read it, to be sure, but also contribute to it.

FARMER'S ALMANAC

UTILITY BILLS UP
PUC HAS LITTLE CONTROL

by John Wilhelm

Like just about everything else, utility bills cost all of us more and more each year. Just this summer, gas bills in the New Haven and Bridgeport areas went up more than four per cent, and in July everybody's telephone bill went up.

When you pay your utility bills—electricity, gas, water, and telephone—you are paying private, profit-making companies which operate as legal monopolies. It would be a mess to have competing companies each running their own pipes and wires down our streets and roads, so private corporations are licensed under state law to operate each utility.

These corporations are required by law to furnish decent service, and in return they are guaranteed a profit rate which is "just, reasonable, and adequate."

The 500 biggest corporations in the country, excluding utilities, last year averaged a profit of about 11 per cent on invested capital. Most utilities average six to eight per cent profit. This lower rate is said to be "just, reasonable, and adequate" because they have guaranteed customers, no competition, and no risk.

In Connecticut, as in other states, the utility companies are "regulated" by the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The three members of the Connecticut PUC are appointed for six-year terms by the Governor, usually as a reward for long political service. The Chairman of the Commission makes $25,950 a year, the other two members $20,780 each.

The PUC is supposed to control profits by setting rates that will produce a "reasonable" return. This profit rate is set as a percentage of the "base of return" which is all the money the company has invested plus the money it needs for operating expenses.

Companies always juggle their financial figures to make the "base of return" amount as big as possible, and they usually predict that their income will be smaller than it really is. The PUC has the hard job of uncovering these tricky bookkeeping methods.

Just two examples of these practices: first, the PUC told the Southern New England Telephone Co. (SNET) this year that it can't count its $263,000 contributions to various charities as operating expenses. It can make contributions if it charges them to stockholders.

Any increase in operating expenses means higher rates for telephone users. The PUC points out that SNET customers are "made involuntary contributors to charities dependent upon the discretion of the Company as to the particular charity and the amount of the gift." The PUC told SNET way back in 1947 that it couldn't do this, but the company has kept right on.

A second, much more common, example of the way customers pay for things they don't need or want came up in a PUC ruling on a Southern Connecticut Gas Co. request for higher rates this year.

The Gas Co. has spent huge amounts of money in the last two years on advertising, trying to get people to buy more gas appliances. Thses costs are passed on to customers. The PUC wouldn't limit Gas Co. advertising expenses, but it did say it is "apprehensive about the substantial increases," and that the company could "accomplish greater economies."

The PUC seems to try pretty hard to catch these tricks and lies by the companies. Every PUC decision on a major rate increase request is full of corrections to company claims about its finances. But there is no way to know how many the PUC overlooks, and how much extra profits the companies make by juggling their books.

The PUC has tried twice this year to exercise at least a little control over the utilities which "serve" this area.

In January the Gas Co. asked for higher rates to produce over $1.5 million in new income. The PUC said this request would produce a net profit rate of 6.42 per cent, which it said is too high. It cut the request by about one-third to almost $1.1 million. This will allow the Gas Co. an estimated profit of over $2.4 million this year, which is a 6.1 per cent profit rate.

What that means, even after the PUC reduction, is that a family with a $200 yearly gas bill—many people who heat with gas pay far more—will now pay $8 or $9 more a year, instead of the $12 or $14 more the company wanted.

The phone company this year asked for a $23.9 million rate increase, which would mean 60 to 95 cents more a month for a New Haven home with a private line, and up to $2 more a month for a private business line. SNET also asked for higher rates for several other services such as installation. Calls to surrounding towns like Ansonia, Derby, Bridgeport, and Guilford would go up a nickel each.

In a 22-page report listing more than 20 "mistakes" in the company's financial figures, the PUC said SNET could have "only" a $13.1 million increase. This would give the company an estimated profit of over $34 million a year and a profit rate of 7.17 per cent for all its operations, and 7.3 per cent for its operations inside Connecticut.

SNET promptly went into Hartford Superior Court and said it would challenge the PUC ruling. While this court challenge

FARMER'S ALMANAC

NATURAL RESOURCES USED FOR PROFIT

HOT DOG ROW TO GO

is going on, Judge Harold Mulvey said SNET can go ahead and raise the rates the full amount it asked for. July phone bills reflected these increases.

In the apparently unlikely event that the court agrees with the PUC and says SNET can have "only" the $13.1 million increase, SNET will have to pay its customers back the difference plus six percent interest. Of course, the paperwork involved in paying us all back would be very expensive. SNET will charge that to "operating expenses," which means that eventually we will pay for paying ourselves back.

Utility customers lose coming or going. The Connecticut Public Utilities Commission tries to do its job, but it operates within the limits of the law and the politics of the Democratic and Republican parties.

As long as the utility monopolies are private, profit-making corporations, and are part of wealthy national corporations like AT&T, the public will pay. The PUC may occasionally hold down a rate increase, but a "just, reasonable, and adequate" profit for the utilities means constantly higher bills for all of us.

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Charging constantly higher rates is not the only way utility companies hurt the people. Gas, electricity, and water companies make their big profits by using natural resources. There's no obvious resaon why private corporations should be able to "own" our irreplaceable natural resources, but they do. Often they not only use them, but ruin them too.

In New York City, the Consolidated Edison Co. fattens its profits by fouling the city's air and water. In New Haven, the United Illuminating Co. (UI) is the largest polluter of our air besides automobiles, and it also helps pollute the Mill River (See AIM Newsletter, October 15, 1968, and July 4, 1969.)

UI is part of a consortium of 11 New England power companies called the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, which is building a $120 million atomic generating plant on the Connecticut River in the little town of Vernon, Vermont.

Nuclear power plants require a huge amount of water to cool down the steam heated by the nuclear reactors. The Vermont Yankee plant will need 780 cubic feet of river water a second. When that water is dumped back into the Connecticut River it will be 20 degrees hotter, and it would raise the temperature of the river at that point at least 13 degrees. That's called "thermal pollution."

There's been a lot of political hoopla lately, and even a little action, about cleaning up the badly polluted Connecticut River so it can once again be used for fishing and recreation. The cost of the cleanup is being charged, of course, to taxpayers, and not to the industries which polluted the river in the first place.

The Vermont Water Resources Board doesn't want the Vermont Yankee plant to heat up the Connecticut. In the summer the river temperature would be above 90 degrees, which is too much even for warm-water fish. The cleanup plans for the river call for reintroducing cold-water fish like salmon, which couldn't live in those conditions.

The solution? Vermont Yankee is being forced to build two water cooling towers, each 450 feet long and 60 feet high and equipped with eleven 150-horsepower fans, to cool the water before it goes back in the river. The cost will be at least $6.5 million.

One byproduct of these towers will be a constant fog, mist, and loud noise in the area. The town of Vernon will probably have to move its elementary school, which is just across the road. The New York Times **quotes the Vermont state legislator for that area as saying the townspeople don't mind, because the plant will lower their property taxes.**

But the rest of us will pay. Construction and operating costs for the towers will be about $1 million a year. UI and the other ten companies will pass this expense on to their customers, even though electricity in New England is already more expensive than anywhere else in the country.

That's private enterprise: we can't interfere with their multi-million dollar profits, so if we don't want them to pollute our rivers, we have to pay them.

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Jimmie's is on the way out.

The voters of West Haven—the 29 per cent of them who came out to vote—decided July 15 against Jimmie's, Phyllis', and Turk's, the three remaining restaurants in the famous Savin Rock area of West Haven. 4931 people voted against a referendum to save the restaurants, and 2763 voted for it (see this column in **AIM Newsletter**, July 4, 1969, for background).

Richard F. Brennan, an insurance and real estate man who led the fight to save "Hot Dog Row," said a few days before the vote that "We are fighting the Democratic Party, the Republicans, and the church." In addition to the opposition of both major political parties, the restaurants were blasted from the pulpit of St. John Vianney, the area's Catholic church.

Although bumper stickers opposing the restaurants mentioned litter as a big problem, the campaign was clearly aimed at the young people who have made Savin Rock a gathering place for many years.

Thomas L. Lawson, Jr., a Democratic city councilman, said "My votes are against the assorted punks which have made the Rock Street area synonymous with disaster."

David J. Montano, a relatively young Republican councilman, said a few days after the defeat that he had opposed it because of "the pot-smokers and the glue-sniffers, and the trouble that's always been there." Montano also said, "We need redevelopment here in West Haven."

The Citizens Advisory Committee, a Redevelopment Agency front, said that citizens who voted "no" would be voting "an end to motorcycle gangs, the hooliganism, and the frequent disturbances which call for police attention."

The owners of the restaurants—all three of which are very profitable businesses—were alternately confused and outraged at the opposition. Stephen Iovanna, who owns Phyllis', ran a **New Haven Register** ad headlined "In 1961—They Asked us to Build! In 1969—They Ask us to Get Out! Is This FAIR??"

Iovanna's ad pointed out that he has supported civic, fraternal, and religious programs in the city, sponsored baseball, basketball, and bowling teams, given to the functions and building fund of St. John Vianney Church, and "given generously to both political parties over the years." He played the businessman's game by the rules, but they ditched him anyway.

The restaurants will probably be allowed to remain in the area if they eliminate "over-the-counter" sales (drive-in service) and have only sitdown eating. This will mean higher prices, and the end of Savin Rock as an important place for working people, and especially young people.

The day before the vote, a large group of young people picketed city hall and urged people to vote "yes" on the referendum.

These were the people to whom Savin Rock was most important. Most of them, in this democratic system of ours, are too young to vote.

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During the 1968 congressional campaign, AIM candidate Bob Cook charged that Avco-Lycoming is planning to convert its Stratford plant to research and development, and move helicopter engine production to a new South Carolina factory. This would cost most of Avco's 9000 workers their jobs.

Controversy at Avco has continued, spurred by a series of AIM leaflets distributed at the plant gates (see p. 11). The leaflets attacked the dangerous working conditions in the plant, and explained who gets the huge profits guaranteed Avco through "defense" contracts paid for by our tax dollars.

In 1968, for instance, Avco has a $57 million profit. $1.2 million went to the top five management people. $3 million went to the Massachusetts Harrington family. A partner of the Harringtons who is also on the Avco Board of Directors made more than $1 million from Avco alone.

And so it goes: if the profits were divided among Avco's 50,000 employees, each would have earned an extra $1,200 last year.

AVCO LOOKS TO CHEAP SOUTHERN LABOR

FARMER'S ALMANAC

AIM charges that Avco is not happy with even this much profit, and wants to move production to South Carolina because of cheaper labor costs and other savings. Avco strongly denies plans for a move south, but the charge is strengthened by Sen. Thomas Dodd's recent statement that 3000 Avco workers will be laid off in the next few months.

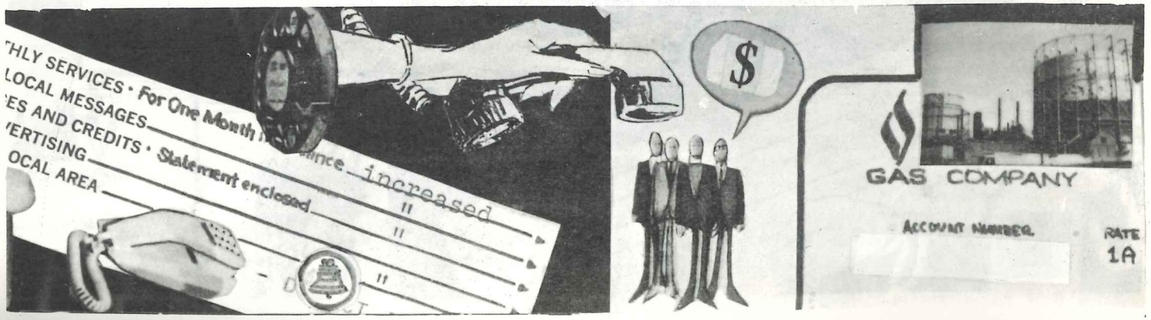
(The New Haven newspapers, incidentally, haven't been covering this controversy, but the weekly Stratford News **does a good job.)**

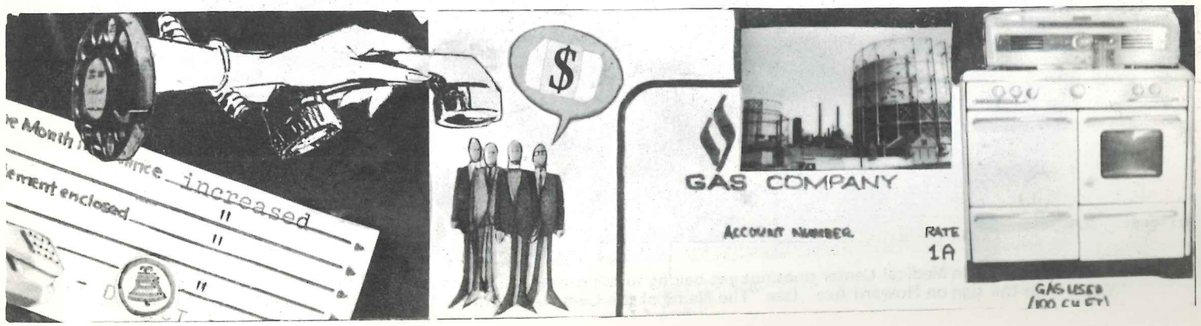
South Carolina, and particularly the Charleston area, is a pretty amazing place for corporations which want more profits. For one thing, the Charleston area is "represented" in Congress by L. Mendel Rivers, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Getting government military contracts is most of the game for profit-minded corporations: once you've got the contract, your profits are virtually guaranteed even if you spend far more than the amount of your original bid. Rivers is a powerful man in that game, and companies like Avco which depend on tax dollars and a fat military budget like to be friends with him.

One good way to be friends with Rivers is to build factories in his home district. In just four years he has been Armed Services Committee chairman, new plants have been built in Charleston by General Electric, J.P. Stevens, McDonnell Douglas, Lockheed Aircraft, and — surprise — Avco.

The South Carolina government also takes great pains to make things profitable for industry. In the June 23 Wall





FARMER'S ALMANAC

LEE FAVORS GUIDA

Now that New Haven Mayor Richard C. Lee has finally quit, many politicians who were afraid to run against him are crawling out of the woodwork and into the mayoralty campaign. Of the Democrats, only Hank Parker, former Black Coalition chairman, and State Senator and Alderman John DiRienzo had the nerve to announce their candidacies before Lee quit.

As this is written, Bart Guida, President of the Board of Aldermen, is most likely to get the Democratic nomination and become the next mayor. Guida apparently is being backed by both Lee and Democratic Town Chairman Arthur Barbieri.

Once, Guida was a member of the semi-independent bloc within the all-Democratic Board of Aldermen who opposed some of Mayor Lee's more outrageous projects, especially some of his redevelopment schemes.

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TAX DEPT: CORPORATIONS GET OFF EASY

Corporation recently announced that it will build a helicopter factory in Charleston. UA's helicopter division is Sikorsky, which is also in Stratford. Anybody checked to see if that plant's production will be moved South?

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Street Journal the State Development Board ran an ad headlined "Plant Yourself in South Carolina. We'll Train Your Workers Free."

"We'll set up a school," the ad said, "equip it with machinery and instruments, and train men and women in the specialized skills they'll need to make your factory hum. At absolutely no cost to you." But at great cost to the people of South Carolina.

"So whether you'll be needing welders," the ad went on, "screw machine operators, electronic technicians or data processors, we'll train them to your specifications—then deliver them to your door in time for opening day." Like so many cattle.

The ad shows a great throng of happy, well-scrubbed, and presumably well-trained workers grinning out at the prospective employer.

Not one of those workers is black—and that's no accident. One of the great attractions of the southern states for big corporations is low labor costs, compared to the rest of the country. Labor is cheap because the South has few decent unions. A major reason the labor movement in the South has not grown is that the planters, industrialists, and politicians who run the South have kept black and white workers divided by encouraging racism.

One of the results is that Yankee corporations which are already rich can move South, pay the workers less, and get even richer. If workers up here lose their jobs, tough. That's free enterprise.

Union growth in South Carolina would mess up the state government's plans to lure industry. This year Gov. Robert McNair showed just how scared he and his cronies are of the labor movement during the long strike against two Charleston hospitals by Local 1199B of the Drug and Hospital Employees Union.

McNair went all out to break the strike, even using the National Guard and making mass arrests. The workers, who are mostly black, all went out too, aided by the United Auto Workers and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The result was a split decision. Twelve workers who had been fired for organizing the union were reinstated, and some wage increases were won. But the basic demand of union recognition has not yet been won.

Industry must be confident that South Carolina can continue to keep the labor movement down. The United Aircraft

The Yale-New Haven Medical Center does not yet belong to the people, but some enterprising soul showed the way by removing "Yale" from the sign on Howard Ave. (see "The Name of the Game is Health", AIM Newsletter special issue March, 1969.)

Workers Strike Profit-Hungry Olin

by Ruth Meyerowitz

The 3,000 production workers at the Winchester Division of Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation are currently on strike against an attack on both their standards of living and their union.

Stormy labor-management relations are not uncommon at Winchester. The company has a history of anti-union policies. For example, there was a seven week strike against the company in 1962. Moreover, it took six or seven major attempts to get a union into the plant. When the International Association of Machinists (IAM) was finally recognized as bargaining agent in 1957 it called the local "Victory" Lodge 609 to celebrate its hard-won triumph.

On July 16, 3,000 workers at the Winchester Division of Olin-Mathieson New Haven's largest industrial employer, voted to strike. The members of Victory Lodge 609 of the IAM rejected a company offer which would have destroyed many of the gains won by the workers over the past 13 years. The union pointed out that a 5% wage increase was grossly inadequate and that the company proposal for phasing out an incentive pay formula would mean a wage cut for more than 1200 of its members during the three years of the contract.

Other attacks on work standards by the company included a proposal to eliminate double-time pay on Sundays and to weaken seniority and pension provisions. Olin would like to begin its accounting of contributions to the pension fund from the time it merged with Winchester in 1956. This would mean that men and women working at Winchester for 20 or 30 years would lose credit for all but the last 13 years of their seniority and Pension Fund contributions. In addition, under the new plan, workers are not eligible for Pension Fund credit until he is 30 years old. This means that if a worker starts at 18, he loses credit for 12 years of work.

Strikers keep vigil as Olin delays settlement.

Collective Bargaining?

Also at issue is Olin's way of negotiating. Although negotiations began more than two months before the contract was to end, the company held firmly to its original offer. In a press release June 25, union president Louis Romano revealed no agreement had been reached on a single issue. He accused Olin of attempting to break the union. These charges are supported by the fact that it was July 28—almost tow weeks after the strike began—before the company again sat down to negotiate with the union. At this session the company restated its original offer. It warned that if the agreement was rejected, production operations would be suspended indefinitely.

The company has also tried to avoid the union. As the **Newsletter** goes to press the company is in the midst of a press and letter propaganda campaign to persuade strikers to accept its offer against the union's recommendation. The company seems to be following a fairly common American management practice of forcing long and costly strikes on unions in hopes that after several weeks the union must accept on the company's terms. Olin's hopes to force workers to question the value of a union which can get them little, if anything, more than the company was originally willing to offer. In 1964 the National Labor Relations Board outlawed a similar negotiating strategy at General Electric. The NLRB ruled that presenting a first and final offer (called "Boulwarism" after G.E.'s vice president for labor relations) was not collective bargaining in good faith.

The Wage Issue

The company is offering a wage increase of approximately 5% a year for the three years of the contract. Although the "5%" figure may sound good at first, this offer does not even keep pace with the cost of living. At the end of three years increases would range from $20.80 per 40 hour week for the lowest labor

grade (least skilled) to $38.80 per week for those in the top skill categories.

Between June 1968 and June 1969, the cost of living rose 5.5%, partly because of the war. In the month between May 1969 and June 1969, the rate was 7.2%. Given this rise, and the fact that unions have so far not demanded price controls, wage increases are the only way workers can deal with the crunch of inflation. Although New Haven's two pro-business newspapers have made much of so-called "generous" and "inflationary" wage settlements in the past few years, and implied the Olin offer follows this pattern, the facts prove that accepting the contract would actually mean a decline in the living standards of Winchester workers.

Reading between the lines of the company's press releases supports this conclusion. Under the proposed settlement, the most highly-skilled incentive workers would lose most. Although William L. Wallace, head of Olin operations in New Haven, promises that the highest earners "will be guaranteed an hourly rate equal to his hourly rate earned over the period July 1968 to July 1969." (**Register**, July 29, 1969) The promise is hollow, as management promises usually are. For although hourly rates may remain the same, incentive pay – substantial part of earnings – will no longer appear in wage packets. Furthermore, at the end of three years these workers will be earning a sum equal to their present minimum weekly wage.

Even if inflation remains at its present rate, this will mean a substantial decline in real wages (measured by a decrease in the amount of goods and service a given sum can purchase). The less highly skilled incentive workers will suffer proportionately. For instead of raising wages to those of the highly skilled, the company is attempting to equalize earnings by pulling down general level of wages, which are already inadequate.

Some may justify Winchester's offer on the grounds that the company, a major war contractor, will probably suffer important short-term losses in the current attack in defense spending. The company however, minimizes the importance of its defense work. It claims there has been no substantial increase in government contracts since before politicians escalated the Vietnam war in 1962.

Company plans are based on the assumption that the war will end in 1969. Its growth figures, based on the 69% increase in sporting arms and ammunition sales over the past five years, show increased sales for each of the next five years. (Olin Annual Report, 1968) The company also plans to diversify production into other areas of outdoor recreation—camping, fishing, boating, skiing—and to expand its share of the shooting sports industry. It also expects greater over-all efficiency and substantially lower costs as a result of its new Illinois plant.

Layoffs

On July 10, just five days before the contract expired, Olin announced a layoff of 65-75 employees. The company warned that a 5% cutback in sporting arms production and further layoffs were possible later in the year. Olin is obviously concerned about the current tight money situation and its effect on consumer spending and dealer inventories. Despite denials, it timed its layoffs as a warning to employees to accept its offer quickly. With demand slowing and dealer inventories full, the company can obviously afford a long strike.

Company Super-Profits

Couldn't the company afford a more generous wage package even with the current contradiction in the domestic market? Says Olin head William L. Wallace,

"We believe this final package is the largest the business can afford without serious injury to our competitive position and future job security."

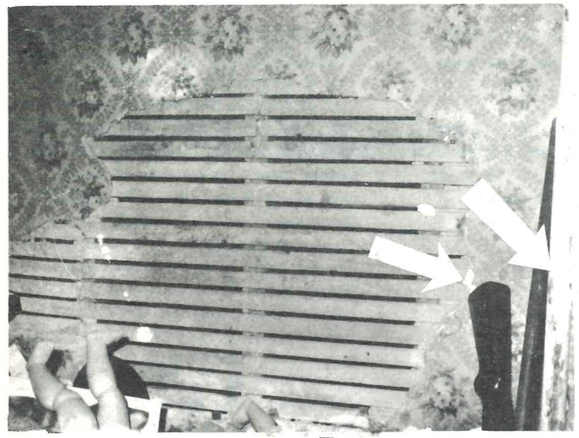
Is this true?

According to the company's 1968 annual Report, Winchester makes the most profits of all the Olin divisions. In 1968 it accounted for 23.4% of the company's sales, but 31.9% of its profits. Furthermore, the Olin-Mathieson Corporation lists its net income after taxes—its profits—at $55 million. With 31,000 employees, and not all of them production workers—each employee still contributes nearly $1,775 in profits to Olin's coffers. With profits this huge, why should working men and wome be forced to absorb the ups and downs in the economy-which they did not cause—through reduced earnings, layoffs, and job insecurity?

It is time that Olin and other corporations be made to recognize that their policies on wages, pensions, working conditions, and benefits affect the living standards and quality of life of not only their employees, but also the entire community. It is past time corporations were made to accept a responsibility to the community to provide jobs which guarantee full employment and good wages for all.

Only working people can force them to face up to that responsibility. As the **Newsletter** goes to press, it appears that Olin workers may face a long strike. On August 1 union members will again vote to accept or reject the company's offer. It is of concern to the rest of New Haven that the city's largest industrial employer is trying to break the union and to lower standards of living for its employees in the process. If the members vote "no" as the negotiating committee recommends, it will be the responsibility of everyone in the community and of other unions in the area to support the strikers by every means necessary—from rallies and demonstrations, to walking the picket lines, to financial aid needed for 3,000 workers and their families to survive the long weeks without pay.

Olin pleas with its labor force. That's the extent of its effort.



Peeling wallpaper exposes lead-base paint. Flakes fall on children's toys.

LEAD

CITY-WIDE ACTION GROUP FORMS

by John Mooney

Poisoning by lead paint continues to injure and maim the very young children of New Haven. Lead paint poisoning is a silent epidemic because it stays in the ghettos. This tragic illness, unlike heroin addiction, polio, diphtheria or smallpox cannot be transmitted either to the adults at City Hall or to the children of Woodbridge and Branford. You will never "catch" it while driving along Route 34 or US 91.

Everyone knows that *normal* children between the ages of 1-5 years show an extraordinary amount of hand-to-mouth activity which can lead to the eating of dangerous materials. The manufacture and sale of lead-base paint has been drastically reduced since 1961. But in older ghetto housing, neglect by landlords and changes in physical conditions cause the newer layers of lead-free paint or wallpaper to peel. This brings the underlying, older surfaces of lead-bearing paint or plaster within the easy reach of young children.

New Haven politicians and ghetto landlords know that peeling paint in a dwelling represents a clear violation of the New Haven Housing Code (Section 302-h). Nevertheless, the dingy, dilapidated apartments "maintained" by these absentee landlords are a health hazard. The scarcity of suitable play objects and the parents' exhaustion in their day-to-day struggle for survival also encourage the child to touch and taste the colored but deadly paint and plaster fragments around him.

Alarmed for the safety of their children, and frustrated both by the impotence of isolated health professionals and the indifference of most city officials, the inner city communities of New Haven have formed Citizens Against Lead (CAL). Their plan of action includes

1. Prevention by thorough and repeated inspections of all older dewllings.

2. Detection by obtaining blood or urine samples from children living in dwellings with violations.

3. Immediate removal of the young from contaminated environments.

4. Medical treatment of ill children.

5. Immediate correction of all violations.

5. Education of inner city residents and aid to citizens wishing to lodge complaints.

7. The establishment of Day Care Centers in the affected neighborhoods.

Trained local residents will inspect and obtain pertinent information and medical specimens in the privacy of the family's home. CAL is working closely with the Medical Committee for Human Rights, a group of doctors and medical students.

John Mooney is a resident physician at the Yale New Haven Hospital and a member of MCHR.

How Lead Paint Works

The continued ingestion of small pieces of paint poses a threat to a child's health over a period of a few weeks. The early symptoms of lack of appetite, stomachache, increased irritability, and loss of coordination can easily be mistaken for a variety of mild illnesses by the unsuspecting physician or parents. In most communities, the most severe symptoms of the disease have to appear before the child's condition is accurately diagnosed. These include prolonged vomiting, stupor, convulsions, and coma. Some children with these severe symptoms die, despite rapid application of modern therapy.

Lead paint has killed children in New Haven. At autopsy these children are found to have suffered extensive damage to those portions of the brain influencing memory and muscular coordination.

Poisoned children develop anemia and abnormal kidney function. Poisoned children store much lead in their bones. But the body's response to infection or injury at some later time can cause the body lead to be released into the blood stream and wreak further damage to the child's injured brain and vital organs.

These facts have brought health professionals to believe that mile dases of chronic lead intoxication could be an undetected cause of emotional instability and impaired intellectual function in children who seem to be enjoying good health.

Many New Haven Children Ill

The magnitude of New Haven's lead poisoning has been documented in recent years only by the isolated efforts of Dr. Zilveti of the Health Department and Dr. Grunt and other health professionals of the Yale-New Haven Hospital. From 1966-69, approximately 40 cases of lead poisoning were identified each year in our city. However, in January, 1969 alone, Health Department figures reveal that of 27 children examined, six had borderline and four had dangerously elevated blood levels of lead. This is especially significant since the number of lead poisoning cases reaches its peak during the summer months. Drs. Zilveti and Grunt have both repeatedly stated that more and more poisonings would be identified in New Haven if the case-finding effort were increased.

Dr. Novack and his staff at the Hill Health Center undertook to examine every young child seen at the Center for the

possibility of lead poisoning. From May 1 to mid-July they obtained 122 blood samples. Thirty children were found to have suspiciously high levels of lead. Of these 30 children, 18 had levels that clearly lay in the danger zone.

So, 25% of all young children seen at the Hill Health Center in the past two and a half months had hazardous levels of lead in their blood! Of course, the Health Center sees only *sick* children from the Hill region. Today, no one knows how many more poisoned children there are in the Hill, Dixwell, and Fair Haven areas who are either "healthy" in appearance or have symptoms subdued enough to be mistaken for a wide variety of mild illnesses not thought to require the attention of a physician. With the proper support, the CAL inspection program may detect such cases.

Health's Pathetic Response

Recently, Citizens Against Lead (CAL) and the Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR) were permitted two meetings with Drs. Atwater and Zilveti of the Health Department, and Mr. Melvin Adams and two staff members of the Division of Neighborhood Improvement (DNI). These meetings on July 24 and 25 are not the first time city officials have heard protests from citizen's groups. Last spring, Hill residents working with the Hill Health Center foresaw the coming summer lead crisis. The inner-city communities then came together on a march to City Hall in early May. This was accompanied by a conference at the Hill Health Center to educate citizens about the medical aspects of lead poisoning. Since the march there has also been *very* extensive coverage from TV, radio, and the newspapers of CAL and MCHR activities.

At the July meetings, the city officials of Health and Housing were informed of the latest Hill Health Center statistics and the alarming number of poisoned children admitted to the Yale-New Haven Hospital. The officials were asked to recognize two facts: 1. A health emergency exists in this city, and 2. a commitment of money is urgently needed to deal with this acute emergency.

CAL and MCHR made two specific suggestions

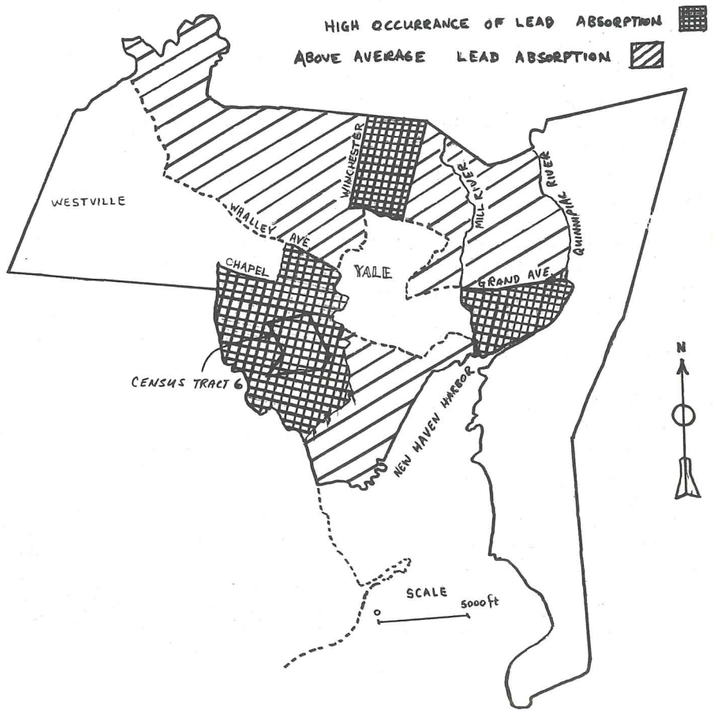
1. Set up a lead-free halfway house where ill children could be treated in the community where they lived, at an expense considerably less than present hospital rates.

2. Since the city owns 15 old buildings, let five of these be renovated and made lead-free so that families could use these as temporary lodgings while the violations in their rented apartments were being corrected by the landlords.

Initially, the first suggestion interested our economy-minded DNI officials who were told that state Welfare was paying $100 per day for each hospitalized child. The response of the Health Department officials to this proposal was, however, negative. They said they had tried this in a children's center way out near Hamden, and (for some strange reason) the children were reluctant to return to their homes after treatment. The DNI men then said that the city could not afford to set up a halfway wouse, because of the expences involved "in meeting the high code standards for such a building."
To the second proposal, the Health Department had nothing to say. Promising nothing and continually pleading poverty, the Housing officials were finally persuaded to "explore" both proposals. They also promised to give serious consideration to using Census Tract 6 (a portion of the Hill district, see map) as a demonstration area for any funded programs. However, they made no commitment toward any immediate action in this crisis situation.

The attitude of our Director of Public Health, Dr. John Atwater, illustrates the approach of public officials. Dr. Atwater felt quite sure that *his own house* had undercoats of lead paint in it. He gave assurances that he, the Director of Public Health of New Haven, made efforts to detect and repair surfaces with peeling paint in his house. Then, in a very solemn tone of voice, he promised the group that he, the Director of Public Health of Hew Haven, was going to paint his bathroom ceiling that very weekend! Those present later concluded that he was certainly doing his share to eliminate a potential health hazard from Greater New Haven, and if the ghetto landlords were forced to be as diligent in maintaining their *rented* apartments as Dr. Atwater was in painting his *very own* bathroom ceiling, then the ghetto children of New Haven would very shortly be liberated from the hazard of lead paint poisoning.

Only through organized citizen action like CAL can solutions be found to this appalling aspect of our city-wide housing problem. CAL's program is only now getting underway, and there is so much to be done! The efforts of *any* concerned citizen are most welcome. To find out what you can do, ask for a representative of CAL at the Hill Health Center, 428 Columbus Avenue, 772-1060.



On July 9, AIM workers handed out 3,000 leaflets (see text below) at Avco-Lycoming, a plant which specializes in making helicopter engines, in Stratford, Connecticut. The leaflet pinpoints some of the economic inequities of the company as well as stating some of AIM's beliefs and past activities concerning AVCO. This flier was a follow-up to a more general tax leaflet which was distributed to many plants in the Greater New Haven area. The management at Avco got a bit up-tight with the second leaflet. As the second shift was being canvassed, security guards photographed each of the AIM workers and tried to get their names. These actions are expected to occur more frequently as the leaflet indicates.

The leafleting has been one aspect of an AIM labor campaign to meet men and women in plants around the area and to share with them ideas which we feel are relevant to all working people.

Who GETS AVCO'S MILLIONS ?

The air inside the Avco plant is dirty. The tow motors and cutting oil pollute the air. The company won't spend the money to install a decent ventillation system. Doesn't Avco have the money to spend?

Avco made a profit of $57 million in 1968. Fifty thousand people work for Avco, so that comes to almost $1,200 of profits from each employee. Who actually gets that money?

—Kendrick Wilson is Chairman of Avco; J.R. Kerr is the President of Avco. **Each of them got a salary last year of $265,000. The next top man got $185,000 and the two men below him each got $145,000.**

—To help tide them over, those five also got $200,000 in dividends from their Avco stock last year.

—But when it comes to stock, those five were small potatoes. The next time someone asks who you work for, before saying Avco, think about the Harrington family.

The Harringtons took over $3 million in dividends from Avco last year. **They own over one and a half million shares of Avco's common and preferred stock. (All figures are from Avco's 1969 proxy statement on file with the federal government)**

The Harringtons live in Massachusetts and run the Paul Revere Life Insurance Company, which merged with Avco in 1967. Robert Harrington is Vice-Chairman of Avco. Two other family members sit on the Avco board of directors with him.

—Edward Hodgkins, one of their partners and also an Avco director, got more than $1 million in dividends last year.

AIM has spoken out before about issues affecting Avco workers:

1. Last summer AIM attacked the company's punishment of wildcat strikers. We believe they struck for good reasons.

2. During our congressional campaign, AIM hit Avco's plans to expand production at its South Carolina plant and to turn the Stratford plant into a research and development center. We said that the workers at Avco and the people in the area — not a few managers — should make that decision.

3. Recently, we leafletted at Avco and many other plants against the unfair tax system which taxes working people heavily, but lets the rich and the corporations off easy.

AIM believes that the basic problem in America is the power of the wealthy few who run the big corporations that control our lives. They use their power to make bigger profits, not to serve the needs of working people.

AIM believes that working people, if they are united, can win the fight to make the wealth of America serve their needs. In order to be united, working people need to fight for both equal opportunity and equal pay for equal work for all workers — white and black, men and women.

When we talked about Avco moving south, we were attacked by Avco. AIM expects to be attacked whenever we raise issues which embarrass big corporations like Avco. For many years corporations called unions "subversive" — that's what they call anyone who fights for the rights of working people.

Avco owners and managers use the profits for their own benefit, not for the benefit of the workers. For example, Avco refuses both to clean the air workers breathe, and to give workers their share of the profits. The American Independent Movement AIM, believes that the workers who produce the profits and wealth should decide how to use them. The working people of America can control what goes on in America. AIM is a group of people organizing to achieve that goal.

Antiwar mob, inflamed by Copperhead propaganda, fights New York police during the Draft Riots of July 13-16, 1863.

After the Draft — The Volunteer Killer

This article is the first in a series, dealing with the relation of the American military to corporate interests . This first article discusses the role of the military in the 19th century and the concept of an all-volunteer army. Future articles will deal with the military and American foreign policy in the 20th century and with the use of the military against workers in the 20th century.

by David Tobis

Liberal dissent is essential for contemporary American society to run with at least some smoothness. Such dissent allows those who are running the government the military or the universities to see where the problems created by their rule are, to understand what is bothering people and to develop ideas of how, with a little reshuffling, things could be run more smoothly. Without such criticism, from within, problems would remain unsolved until major changes were needed to retain the status quo.

Radical dissent, unlike liberal dissent, proposes a total redistribution of power and resources and so the people running the country try to suppress it.

Most objections to the military draft have been liberal criticisms, which are needed and even desired by the rulers of the country.

For the past several years liberals and radicals have demonstrated and fought for the end of the military draft. The end of the draft was seen as a means to protect the individual freedoms of men who might be drafted against their will, as a means to prevent future wars like Vietnam, and finally, as a possible means to limit the mushrooming power and influence of the military.

As in countless cases in the past, the liberal establishment has taken radical criticisms and answered with their solutions – which we have almost accepted, in this case – the all-volunteer army.

With such an army, politicians like Mark Hatfield argue, men would no longer be forced to fight against their will. Vietnams will be less likely to occur because involvement in a major war would require the consent of Congress to conscript an army.

To conclude that a volunteer army would decrease the destructive power of the U.S. government in national and international affairs results from a failure to analyze both the historical development and uses of the U.S. military and the present role and function of the military.

A study of how the military has been and is used, shows that a volunteer army would facilitate, rather than hinder, domination of the world by the United States.

How Voluntary Army Works

For most of American history, "National Defense" has been primarily based on a volunteer Regular army. We can see what has been done throughout our history with this force, before advocating its reinstatement.

The United States began as a nation, basing its defense on a small, reasonably well-trained Regular army backed up by a larger but less disciplined citizen militia.

The Militia Act of 1792 required that each state have its own militia in which every adult (white, male) between the ages of 19 and 45 was required to enroll. Since there were no standards set by the act and a man would pay only a small fine for failure to enroll, the militia system was only nominally a system of universal military training.

Militia duty usually entailed from 12 to 25 days of training scattered through the year. In time of national emergency, the militia could be called into federal service for a period of three months.

Until the War of 1812 this military system was adequate for the needs of the developing country. During this time the Regular army, which only consisted of about 6,000 men, and the militia were used mainly to fight Indians, suppress domestic rebellions and explore and help acquire new territories. In April 1808, for example, resistance to the Embargo Act in the Lake Champlain area caused President Jefferson to declare it an area in insurrection and the New York militia and the Regular army were called in to supress the opporition. Throughout all of Jefferson's term of office, the military was used to aid in the aquisition of new territory. In 1810 the western part of Florida was still Spanish territory. A bloodless insurrection in that area, stimulated from the U.S. side of the border enabled U.S. troops to occupy the territory and bring the insurrection under U.S. control. Soon after, that section of land was annexed to the U.S. Acquisitions of new sources of wealth have always been essential for a capitalistic economic system to continue functioning.

Before the Louisiana Purchase, the army was used to explore that area. After the purchase, Capt. Lewis and Lt. Clark and 30 other soldiers were sent to explore the land. Lt. Pike and 20 other soldiers explored the Spanish-owned southwest. Earlier, in 1806, under the orders of General James Wilkinson, Lt. Pike and a platoon of soldiers invaded the territory of Mexico south of the Rio Grande in an attempt to acquire new land.

Volunteers Fight Wars

The War of 1812 and every other major war of the United States in the 19th Century was fought primarily with volunteer forces, both the Regular army and the militia, backed up by a common "conscript" militia. The Mexican War of 1846-48, for example, was fought entirely on foreign soil with the volunteer Regular army and not with the militia. In this conflict, the U.S. army under Col. Zachery Taylor (later President), maneuvered troops into territory claimed by Mexico. This forced Mexico to fire the first shot. The set-up incident allowed the U.S. to retaliate to the point of invading Mexico, and under the orders of President Polk, the army moved on to capture Mexico City and occupy large areas of Mexico.

The Spanish-American war was also fought with the Regular volunteer army. Our involvement was primarily to protect U.S. sugar interests on the island of Cuba. The U.S. entered the war *after* the armistice had been signed between Cuba and Spain. With 300 war deaths, the Regular volunteer army helped acquire control of Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico there had been no insurrection against Spain, but the island was seized anyway by a U.S. army of occupation. Cuba, the Philippines and Guam – critically valuable territories – came under U.S. control.

Army Used in Peac e Time

The operation and function of the Army in the time between these major wars is equally important. In the period after the Mexican-American War, the army again served three functions: 1. preserving American business interests abroad, 2. supressing domestic disturbances, 3. aiding new U.S. industries,mainly the railroads, mines and steel companies.

To preserve American business interests abroad, the American military forces landed in, occupied, attacked or otherwise violated the territory of foreign nations 23 times, between 1849 and 1860. A few examples cited in the **Congressional Record** of June 23, 1969 will illustrate this point.

Instances of Use of U.S. Armed Forces Abroad
1798-1945

- 1852-53—Argentina—February 3 to 12, 1852; September 17, 1852 to April (?) 1853.—Marine rines were landed and maintained in Buenos Aires to protect American interests during a revolution.
- 1853-54—Ryukyu and Bonin Islands—Commodore Perry on three visits before going to Japan and while waiting for a reply from Japan made a naval demonstration, landing marines twice, and secured a coaling concession from the ruler of Naha on Okinawa. He also demonstrated in the Bonin Islands. All to secure facilities for commerce.
- 1855—Fiji Islands—September 12 to November 4—To seek reparations for depredations on Americans.
- 1858-59—Turkey—Display of naval force along the Levant at the request of the Secretary of State after massacre of Americans at Jaffa and mistreatment elsewhere "to remind the authorities (of Turkey)* * * of the power of the United States."
- 1859—China—July 31 to August 2—For the protection of American interests in Shanghai.

This list was read into the **Congressional Record** by Sen. Everett Dirksen to show the need for maintaining a strong "national commitment" with our military forces.

During this period there were two major domestic disturbances which the army put down: one against various political forces in Kansas contending slavery, and one against the Mormons in Utah between 1857-58. The Mormons had been persecuted, ostracized and tortured all across the country. In an attempt to redress grievances and defend themselves the Mormons captured and burned army supply trains to prevent the military from silencing them.

In addition to these two major disturbances the Northern urban areas produced a tremendous number of riots. Between 1830 and 1860 at least 35 major riots occured in Baltimore (12 riots), Philadelphia (15), New York (8) and Boston (4). The militia and army played a role in suppressing these.

Third, the army was used in the 1850's to map and explore four trails to be used for the privately-owned transcontinental railroads. The four trails became the Northern Pacific, the Denver and Rio Grande, the Sante Fe, and the Southern Pacific. A similar situation existed during the Civil War. The army was used to repair damaged railroad tracks free of charge while the government had to pay unreasonably high rates to use the railroads. This, of course, was logical since Thomas A. Scott, who had been an executive of the Penn Central, was appointed Assistant Secretary of War in charge of transportation. It was his job to draw up rate schedules. Congress soon realized that the government was being bilked and attempted to correct the situation with the Railroad Act of January 31, 1862.

Business Interests Helped

From the Civil War until the late 1890's, the Regular army's major role was to foster the business interests of the men who were running the country. The U.S. armed forces invaded or violated the territory of foreign nations 33 times. Domestically during this period the Regular army was used to "settle" more than 300 labor disputes, by breaking them. Since the state militias were the first line of call for domestic strife, they were used in significantly more labor disputes than the army. It was a direct result of these labor disputes and riots that the National Guard System was created in the 1880's to replace the obsolete State militia system. The National Guard was established first, and most rapidly in the leading industrial states of the North which were most vulnerable to labor unrest.

The conquest of Cuba and the Philippines which provided footholds in South America and the Pacific, enabled U.S. businessmen to begin extablishing their first sizable foreign investments. These investments increased from $700 million in 1897 to $3.5 billion by 1914. To protect these increasing investments, the majority of which were in Latin America, the army was similarly forced to increase the number of times it invaded foreign countries. Between 1900 and 1916 U.S. armed forces were used 21 times in Latin American countries alone! A few examples:

- 1901—Colombia (State of Panama—November 20 to December 4—To protect American property on the Isthmus and to keep transit lines open during serious revolutionary disturbances
- 1903—Dominican Republic—March 30 to April 21—To protect American interests in the city of Santo Domingo during a revolutionary outbreak.
- 1903-14—Panama—To protect American in-

Roosevelt kept the Navy steaming from one Caribbean port to another to enforce his concept of the Monroe Doctrine.

When the Senate blocked his Santo Domingo "treaty," Teddy snapped, "The Senate is wholly incompetent."

terests and lives during and following the revolution for independence from Columbia over construction of the Isthmian canal. With brief intermissions, United States Marines were stationed on the Isthmus from November 4, 1903 to January 21, 1914, to guard American interests.

- 1906-09—Cuba—September 1906 to January 23, 1909—Intervention to restore order, protect foreigners, and establish a stable government after serious revolutionary activity.
- 1907—Honduras—March 18 to June 8—To protect American interests during a war between Honduras and Nicaragua; troops were stationed for a few days or weeks in Trujillo, Ceiba, Puerto Cortez, San Pedro, Laguna, and Choloma.
- 1912—Honduras—Small force landed to prevent seizure by the Government of an American-owned railroad at Puerto Cortez. Forces withdrawn after the United States disapproved the action.
- 1912-25—Nicaragua—August to November 1912—To protect American interests during an attempted revolution. A small force serving as a legation gurad and as a promoter of peace and governmental stability, remained until August 5, 1925.
- 1915-34—Hati—July 28, 1915, to August 15, 1934—To maintain order during a period of chronic and threatened insurrection.
- 1916-24—Dominican Republic—May 1916 to September 1924.—To maintain order during a period of chronicand threatened insurrection.

These actions were mostly not minor invasions or occupation but lasted for several years and exerted a tremendous influence on the countries involved. All these invasions were carried out by a volunteer armed force. The only "property" and "interests" being protected are those of the owners of the large corporations who run our lives and this country.

One specific case is of special interest. In the late 1890's the U.S. had unsuccessfully tried to purchase the rights over the Isthmus of Panama which at that time was part of Colombia. Then in 1903 the Isthmus area of Colombia, aided by U.S. agents, rebelled and seceded. Immediately the U.S. recognized the secessionist regime, sent troops in to back the new government and reinforce Panama against attack from Colombia. Shortly later the new government provided the U.S. with a most profitable lease of the Isthmus. When diplomatic means were unsuccessful in acquiring land, the armed forces provided a solution.

Role of the Volunteer Army

From this brief description of the U.S. armed forces before the World Wars several conclusions , which also apply to the present, can be drawn.

I. From its very beginnings the army has, except for brief instances, been controlled by civilians. From 1798 when Alexander Hamilton saw to it that all the officers in the army were political appointees with the virtual exclusion of Jeffersonians from the highest ranks and often from the army altogether, to 1848 when Polk, contrary to the wishes of his generals ordered the invasion of Mexico as the best means to get a favorable political settlement, to the countless times when the size of the army and the funds allocated to it ran counter to the wishes of the generals, we have had a civilian-controlled army.

2. The army has always served the interests of the American ruling elite of businessmen and has always been dependent on and responsible to those interests. This situation extends from the time when the wealthy could buy their way out of the army (the Civil War) to the army's help in the development of the railroad monopolies breaking strikes, defending business interests abroad and or course, acquiring control of new land for investment, trade and profit.

3. A volunteer military force has always been able to conquer new lands and provide the manpower for the hundreds of minor conflicts in which the U.S. has been involved while protecting business interests abroad.

NEXT ISSUE: The military and American foreign policy in the 20th century.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

Please let me congratulate you on the very interesting series by Gail Falk on the 1930's. The June 15 article on rank and file organization with fighting leadership is particularly fascinating. The article, however, in discussing the Angelo Herndon case had some important omissions. This refers to page 6.

Angelo Herndon was not simply "a young black man who went to Atlanta to organize unemployed." He, the son of a poor Alabama family, was one of the unemployed. As a result of participation in the unemployed councils, discussions with older unemployed, and study, he joined the Communist Party and became the Communist Party organizer in Atlanta.

Herndon was defended by a young black attorney, an Atlanta resident, Benjamin J. Davis, on behalf of the International Labor Defense. The legal defense was based on a mass defense of black and white unemployed and supporters of Negro rights. For the first time, the lily white "hanging" jury system was attacked, in the Herndon case, and attacked successfully. As Benjamin J. Davis writes in his posthumously published account — from which the above comments are taken — "...I had entered the trial as his lawyer and ended it as his Communist comrade." (Benjamin J. Davis, **Communist Councilman from Harlem. Autobiographical Notes Written in a Federal Penitentiary**. N.Y. International Publishers, 1969) p. 81. This is an eyewitness and participant account.

Fraternally,
George Fishman

FARMER'S ALMANAC

Continued from Page 6

That opposition group began to gather strength during the narrowly unsuccessful fight, led by AIM, against the State Street redevelopment monstrosity. However, by last fall when Lee's pet project, the Coliseum, came up, the aldermanic opposition had dwindled again. One important reason was Guida's strong move into the mayor's camp.

In return, Guida was named President of the Board of Aldermen after Lee got former President William O'Connell a patronage job as deputy city controller. It is also said that Guida was offered a huge price by the Redevelopment Agency for the Trailways bus terminal building at Grove and Church streets, which he owns.

Guida's campaign manager is former aldermanic majority leader Edward M. Reynolds. Reynolds, who has a lot of behind-the-scenes political muscle, this spring shepherded a proposal through the Zoning Board for a convalescent home at Howard Avenue and Putnam Street in the Hill.

The Hill Neighborhood Corporation and other Hill groups opposed the home as unsuitable for that part of the Hill, which is residential, and because it will destroy badly-needed housing. The Hill Health Board opposed, it, and the Yale-New Haven Medical Center refused to endorse it, on medical grounds.

This "home" is designed as a money-making scheme and nothing more: it's called an "extended care" facility, which turns out to mean a patient's care is limited to 100 days, which just happens to be the limit Medicare will pay for. In plain English: when you run out of money, out you go.

Reynolds got it approved, and the Neighborhood Corporation had to drop a lawsuit against it because the courts say just plain residents don't have legal standing to oppose such a zoning change.

IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII

When schools are useless or worse, and students aren't organized to change them, the students react in the most reasonable way: they just don't go.

When the New Haven public schools opened last September, average absence rate for all schools was 13 per cent. In December, and again in April and May, average absences rose to 28 per cent. Hillhouse High School set the weekly record of 34 per cent absent, with 49 per cent out on one Friday.

IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII

Who-Really-Pays Dept.: in the two-year period which ended June 30, the state collected $166 million in income taxes from corporations in Connecticut. At the end of March, with three months left in that same two-year period, the state had already collected $284.8 million in sales taxes, which come from all of us no matter how rich or poor we are.

GRAPHICS CREDITS

Cover.....Alan McKnight
Page 3-5.....Liz Rose
Page 6.....David Tobis
Page 7-8.....Diane Dexter
Page 9.....Freedom Now
Page 12.....**The American Past,** Roger Butterfield, 1947, p. 125
Page 14.....**The American Past,** p. 326.

people's almanac

August 1, 1943—Rebellion broke out in Harlem.

August 3, 1968—Ghetto rebellions in Jersey City, Perth Amboy, Providence, Peoria and Sandusky.

August 4, 1735—John Peter Zenger, a New York newspaper publisher, went on trial for criticising the colonial governor. Zenger was finally acquitted; as a result of his case, telling the truth becomes a defense in libel cases.

August 6, 1945—Hiroshima

August 7, 1890—Birthday of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, the "Rebel Girl". An organizer from the age of 16, she worked in the IWW and later rose to a leadership position in the Communist Party. She was imprisoned for several years after being convicted of sedition under the Smith Act.

August 9, 1945—Nagasaki was decimated by an American atom bomb.

August 12, 1898—The U.S. defeated Spain's dying colonial effort to retain her role as a colonial power, and became a colonial power herself, amassing Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

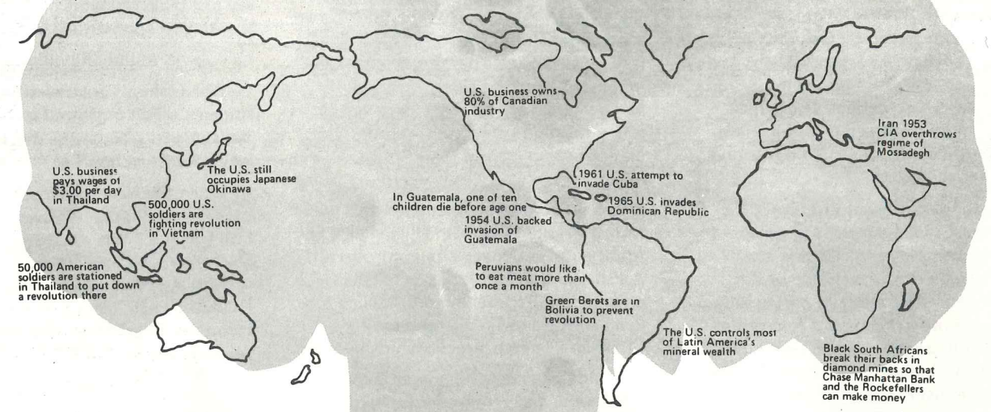
August 7, 1960—The Cuban Revolution, one year old, began to confiscate some $770 million worth of U.S. owned property in Cuba.

August 13, 1818—Birthday of Lucy Stone, an advocate of women's rights and abolition.

August 13, 1926—Birthday of Fidel Castro, a modern advocate of socialist revolution and national liberation.

August 14, 1833—The first trade union in America was organized in New York City.

24th Anniversary


U.S. business owns 80% of Canadian industry
Iran 1953 CIA overthrows regime of Mossadegh
U.S. business pays wages of $3.00 per day in Thailand
The U.S. still occupies Japanese Okinawa
500,000 U.S. soldiers are fighting revolution in Vietnam
50,000 American soldiers are stationed in Thailand to put down a revolution there
In Guatemala, one of ten children die before age one
1961 U.S. attempt to invade Cuba
1965 U.S. invades Dominican Republic
1954 U.S. backed invasion of Guatemala
Peruvians would like to eat meat more than once a month
Green Berets are in Bolivia to prevent revolution
The U.S. controls most of Latin America's mineral wealth
Black South Africans break their backs in diamond mines so that Chase Manhattan Bank and the Rockefellers can make money

The U.S. maintains 429 major and 2972 minor military bases in 64 countries.

Hiroshima Day

August 6

BRIDGEPORT AIM NOW HAS AN OFFICE!

9 Harrison Street, Bridgeport

Office hours 2-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Feis!

On Sunday, August 10 beginning at 1:30 p.m. there will be an Irish Field Day and Feis at Bowen field near Hillhouse High School. The Field Day is sponsored by the New Haven Gaelic Football and Hurling League. The Field Day will be for the benefit of the Committee for Justice in Northern Ireland, P.O. Box 5044, Hamden, Conn. 06518.

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT
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